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LART

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Mentor Text Assignment: 5th Grade Civil War

1. Kent, Z. (1987). *The Story of Sherman’s March to the Sea*. Chicago, Illinois: Children’s Press.

Interest Level: 3-5 Readability Level: 6.9 Lexile Measure: 1040L Guided Reading: R

This is an informational text about Sherman’s march to the sea. It describes the devastation incurred by the Union general’s march from Atlanta to Savannah during the Civil War. The book describes the Confederate surrender by destroying the South’s economic resources. It also has good illustrations on each page to keep the reader engaged. I would use this book with 5th graders to teach about Sherman’s march to the sea.

**GPS: SS5H1** The student will explain the causes, major events, and consequences of the

Civil War.

c. Identify major battles and campaigns: Fort Sumter, Gettysburg, the Atlanta

Campaign, Sherman’s March to the Sea, and Appomattox Court House.

I would use this book during writing workshop as a mentor text to model important features in informational text. I would focus on descriptive writing because of the great use of descriptions in this book.

Examples:

* Huge clouds of swirling sparks and floating cinders choked the air.
* Weakened brick walls swayed together and tumbled into formless heaps.
* The booming of exploding armory shells and gunpowder, together with the panic of galloping horses and the wild shouts of excited men, created a nightmarish scene.

1. Ransom. C. (1998). *Children of the Civil War*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Lerner Publishing Group.

Interest level: 3-5 Readability Level: 6.5 Lexile Measure: Guided Reading:

Children of the Civil War is an informational text about children growing up during the Civil War. It explores the lives of the children during the Civil War including those who joined armies, others who stayed home, and the large numbers of children made homeless because of this conflict.

**GPS: SS5H1** The student will explain the causes, major events, and consequences of the

Civil War.

b. Discuss how the issues of states’ rights and slavery increased tensions between

the North and South.

c. Identify major battles and campaigns: Fort Sumter, Gettysburg, the Atlanta

Campaign, Sherman’s March to the Sea, and Appomattox Court House.

d. Describe the roles of Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant,

Jefferson Davis, and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson.

e. Describe the effects of war on the North and South.

This book not only teaches children about the impact of the war on kids there age and puts the war in perspective for them. There are also lots of activities in the back of this book that can be used for writing activities. I could also use this book to teach the different parts of the book. It has a table of contents, index, and glossary, and timeline.

1. Turner, A. (1998). *Drummer Boy*. New York, New York: Harper Collins

Interest Level: K-2 Readability Level: 5.9 Lexile Level: 890L Guided Reading: R

This book is a fictional book about a boy involved in the Civil War. He is a thirteen year old soldier who beats his drum to raise tune and spirits and muffle the sounds of the dying.

**GPS: SS5H1** The student will explain the causes, major events, and consequences of the

Civil War.

c. Identify major battles and campaigns: Fort Sumter, Gettysburg, the Atlanta

Campaign, Sherman’s March to the Sea, and Appomattox Court House.

This would be a good text to model a personal narrative like the boy did in this story. The students could write their own personal narrative about something they have experienced and what they learned from that situation.

1. Moore, K. (1994). *If you Lived at the Time of the Civil War*. New York, New York: Scholastic Inc.

Interest Level:3-5 Readability Level: 5.2 Lexile Level: 840L Guided Reading: Q

This is an informational text that tells children what life was like during the Civil War years. It lets the reader step into the past with a question and answer format. It includes both the Southern and Northern war perspectives.

**GPS: SS5H1** The student will explain the causes, major events, and consequences of the

Civil War.

a. Identify Uncle Tom’s Cabin and John Brown’s raid on Harper’s Ferry, and

explain how each of these events was related to the Civil War.

b. Discuss how the issues of states’ rights and slavery increased tensions between

the North and South.

e. Describe the effects of war on the North and South.

This text would be good when teaching about comparing and contrasting. You could have the students pick a side (North or South) and explain why they are on that side. The text would be a model because it supports both sides and the student would have to choose a side with supporting details.

1. Ray, N. (2008). *Civil War America*. New York, New York: Harper Collins.

Interest Level: 6-8 Readability Level: 5.2 Lexile Level: 860L Guided Reading: T

This is a good summary about the time during the Civil War. I think the students would really be interested in this book because it is unlike any other historical non-fiction book. It takes the reader on exciting journeys throughout the Civil War era. The format of the book is like a modern-day travel guide.

GPS: SS5H1 The student will explain the causes, major events, and consequences of the

Civil War.

c. Identify major battles and campaigns: Fort Sumter, Gettysburg, the Atlanta

Campaign, Sherman’s March to the Sea, and Appomattox Court House.

d. Describe the roles of Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant,

Jefferson Davis, and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson.

This book would be a good model for writing workshop with the use of making a travel guide. They could pick one of the major battles and research and make a travel guide and share with the class.